

Amendments to the claims:

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A manufacturing process for a resin composition comprising a kneading step of kneading a thermoplastic resin and an additive under heating, wherein, prior to the kneading step, the manufacturing process further comprises a preliminary step of pre-heating and mixing the thermoplastic resin and the additive, and transition of the mixture obtained in the preliminary step to the kneading step is carried out ~~while maintaining~~ at a temperature that is the same as a temperature reached at the end of the preliminary step and is lower than a softening temperature of the thermoplastic resin or is carried out at a temperature that is lower than the temperature reached at the end of the preliminary step and is lower than the softening temperature of the thermoplastic resin, and then kneading is carried out.

Claim 2 is canceled.

3. (Previously Presented) The manufacturing process according to claim 1, wherein, when the mixture at the end of the preliminary step has a temperature of X (°C) and the mixture at the time of transition to the kneading step has a temperature of Y (°C), the condition of the formula (I) below is satisfied

$$0 \leq (X - Y) \leq 100 \quad (I).$$

4. (Previously Presented) The manufacturing process according to claim 1, wherein the preliminary step has a heating temperature in the range of 100 to 250°C.

5. (Previously Presented) The manufacturing process according to claim 1, wherein the mixture at the time of transition to the kneading step has a temperature in the range of 30 to 200°C.

6. (Previously Presented) The manufacturing process according to claim 1, wherein the kneading step has a temperature in the range of 80 to 350°C.
7. (Previously Presented) The manufacturing process according to claim 1, wherein the additive comprises an inorganic flame retardant.
8. (Original) The manufacturing process according to claim 7, wherein the inorganic flame retardant has a Mn/Mw ratio of a number-average particle size Mn to a weight-average particle size Mw in the range of 0.2 to 1.0.
9. (Original) The manufacturing process according to claim 7, wherein the inorganic flame retardant has a content of particles with a particle size of 0.70 to 15.0 μm of at least 90.0%.
10. (Original) The manufacturing process according to claim 7, wherein the inorganic flame retardant is a microparticulate obtained by grinding using fluid shear forces generated by rotating two opposed rotors respectively in the same direction or in opposing directions.
11. (Original) The manufacturing process according to claim 7, wherein the thermoplastic resin and the inorganic flame retardants have a mixing ratio such that, in terms of weight proportion, the thermoplastic resin is in the range of 0.5 to 1,000 parts per 1 part of the inorganic flame retardant.
12. (Original) The manufacturing process according to claim 7, wherein the thermoplastic resin and the inorganic flame retardants have a mixing ratio such that, in terms of weight proportion, the thermoplastic resin is in the range of 5 to 20 parts per 1 part of the inorganic flame retardant.
13. (Original) The manufacturing process according to claim 7, wherein the inorganic flame retardant comprises at least one retardant selected from the group consisting of metal hydroxides, metal carbonates, red phosphorus, and flexible graphite.

14. (Original) The manufacturing process according to claim 7, wherein the inorganic flame retardant comprises at least one retardant selected from the group consisting of magnesium hydroxide, aluminum hydroxide, calcium hydroxide, calcium carbonate, red phosphorus, and flexible graphite.

15. (Previously Presented) The manufacturing process according to claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic resin has a melting point of 70 to 350°C.

16. (Previously Presented) The manufacturing process according to claim 1, wherein, when the heating temperature of the preliminary step is Z (°C) and the melting temperature of the thermoplastic resin is T (°C), Z is in the range given by the formula (II) below

$$(T - 50) \leq Z \leq T \quad (\text{II}).$$

17. (Previously Presented) The manufacturing process according to claim 1, wherein the additive comprises at least one additive selected from the group consisting of ore powders, organic substances, plant tissue-derived powders, carbon powders, inorganic salts, and pigments.

18. (Previously Presented) The manufacturing process according to claim 1, wherein the additive comprises at least one additive selected from the group consisting of ground tourmaline, tartaric acid, ground *wasabi* horseradish, ground soybean residues, ground red pepper, ground black pepper, ground *matsutake* mushrooms, ground *shiitake* mushrooms, wood flour, ground paper, ground tea leaf waste, ground coffee residues, carbon black, talc, ground wood charcoal, ground bamboo charcoal, ground cacao bean shells, organic pigments, inorganic pigments, and calcium carbonate.

19. (Currently Amended) The manufacturing process according to claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein the additive comprises an inorganic flame retardant, and at the time of transition to the kneading step, the mixture has a temperature in the range of 50 to 150°C.

20. (Currently Amended) The manufacturing process according to claim 2 1, wherein the additive comprises magnesium hydroxide, and at the time of transition to the kneading step, the mixture has a temperature in the range of 50 to 150°C.
21. (Currently Amended) The manufacturing process according to claim 2 1, wherein the additive comprises magnesium hydroxide and aluminum hydroxide, and at the time of transition to the kneading step, the mixture has a temperature in the range of 50 to 130°C.
22. (Currently Amended) The manufacturing process according to claim 2 1, wherein the additive comprises plant tissue-derived powders, and at the time of transition to the kneading step, the mixture has a temperature in the range of 30 to 100°C.
23. (Currently Amended) The manufacturing process according to claim 2 1, wherein the additive comprises wood flour, and at the time of transition to the kneading step, the mixture has a temperature in the range of 50 to 100°C.
24. (Currently Amended) The manufacturing process according to claim 2 1, wherein the thermoplastic resin comprises at least one resin selected from the group consisting of polyolefins, acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene copolymers (ABS), acrylonitrile-styrene copolymers (AS), polystyrene (PS), polyesters, thermoplastic elastomers (thermoplastic elastomers, TPE), and thermoplastic urethanes (thermoplastic urethanes, TPU).
25. (Original) The manufacturing process according to claim 24, wherein the polyolefins comprise at least one of polyethylene (PE) and polypropylene (PP) and the polyesters comprise at least one compound selected from the group consisting of polyethylene terephthalate (PET), polylactic acid, and polyhydroxybutyrate (PHB).
26. (Currently Amended) The manufacturing process according to claim 2 1, wherein the thermoplastic resin is a polyolefin and the preliminary step has a heating temperature in the range of 50 to 220°C.

27. (Currently Amended) The manufacturing process according to claim 2 1, wherein the thermoplastic resin is a polypropylene and the preliminary step has a heating temperature in the range of 80 to 200°C.

28. (Currently Amended) The manufacturing process according to claim 2 1, wherein the thermoplastic resin is a polyethylene and the preliminary step has a heating temperature in the range of 60 to 180°C.

29. (Currently Amended) A resin composition prepared in accordance with the manufacturing process according to claim 2 1.

30. (Original) A resin product utilizing the resin composition according to claim 29.

31. (Original) A resin composition prepared in accordance with the manufacturing process according to claim 7.

32. (Original) The resin composition according to claim 31, wherein the inorganic flame retardant comprises magnesium hydroxide.

33. (Original) The resin composition according to claim 31, wherein the inorganic flame retardant comprises aluminum hydroxide and magnesium hydroxide.

34. (Original) The resin composition according to claim 31, wherein the inorganic flame retardant comprises flexible graphite and magnesium hydroxide.

35. (Original) The resin composition according to claim 31, wherein the thermoplastic resin comprises at least one resin selected from the group consisting of polyolefins, acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene copolymers (ABS), acrylonitrile-styrene copolymers (AS), polystyrene (PS), polyesters, thermoplastic elastomers (thermoplastic elastomers, TPE), and thermoplastic urethanes (thermoplastic urethanes, TPU).

36. (Original) A resin composition according to claim 35, wherein the polyolefins comprise at least one of polyethylene (PE) and polypropylene (PP), and the polyesters comprise at least one compound selected from the group consisting of polyethylene terephthalate (PET), polylactic acid, and polyhydroxybutyrate (PHB).
37. (Original) The resin composition according to claim 31 used for electric cable coatings.
38. (Original) An electric cable comprising a coating formed from the resin composition according to claim 37.
39. (Previously Presented) The manufacturing process according to claims 1, wherein the stirring speed in the preliminary step is in the range of 400 to 1000 rpm.
40. (Previously Presented) The manufacturing process according to claim 1, wherein the additive is a particulate additive.
41. (Previously Presented) The manufacturing process according to claim 1, wherein the mixture obtained in the preliminary step is a homogeneous mixture of the additive and a thin film of the thermoplastic resin.
42. (Previously Presented) The manufacturing process according to claim 41, wherein the thermoplastic resin is pellet-shaped at the beginning of the preliminary step, and in the preliminary step the pellets are formed into a thin film by heating.
43. (Previously Presented) The manufacturing process according to claim 1, wherein the mixture obtained in the preliminary step is a homogeneous mixture of the additive and a powder of the thermoplastic resin.